

North Bay Watershed Association

Summary of the meeting of the North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) Board of Directors

Date: November 4, 2016 - Time: 9:30 a.m. -Location: Novato Sanitary District, 500 Davidson St. Novato

Board Member	Agency	Board Member	Agency
Mike Healy	City of Petaluma	Jack Baker	North Marin Water District
Madolyn Agrimonti	City of Sonoma & Sonoma Valley Co. SD		
Damon Connolly	County of Marin	Brant Miller	Novato Sanitary District
Judy Schriebman	Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District	Pamela Meigs	Ross Valley Sanitary District
Jack Gibson	Marin Municipal Water District	Brad Sherwood	Sonoma County Water Agency

Directors present represented 9 of the 18 agencies signatory to the Association MOU.

1. **Call to Order** – Jack Gibson, Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.
2. **Public Comment** – No public comments were brought forward.
3. **Approval of the Agenda** – The agenda was unanimously approved by the Board.
4. **Approval of Minutes** – The previous Board Meeting’s minutes were unanimously approved.
5. **Treasurer’s Report** – Judy Kelly, NBWA Executive Director began by thanking Cheryl Howard of MMWD for her continued work to manage NBWA finances. An invoice to American Canyon for their new membership will be sent out soon. Judy has reached out to the Valley of the Moon about potential membership, but has not heard back. She requested that Board Members with connections to this organization reach out to determine their interest.
6. **Director’s Report** Judy Kelly reported:
 - 2017 Board Meeting dates have been set. Locations for these meetings are being established, but scheduling has been difficult in part due to a change in policy by the Marin Community Foundation who now only accepts reservations 30 days in advance.
 - SCWA’s Isolation Valve Installation Project has been featured in this month’s Director’s Report, and is an example of how NBWA member agencies can promote their own efforts through NBWA. To have your own organization’s efforts promoted please contact Sophie Hallam-Eames or Judy Kelly.
 - There are 2 upcoming water conferences which are relevant to NBWA member agencies. See the Director’s Report for more information.
 - NBWA is introducing a Lending Library, a collection of documents on relevant topics for NBWA members. To check out any document please contact Sophie Hallam-Eames. Library will be available at NBWA Board Meetings.
7. **What’s New at the Regional Water Board** – Bruce Wolfe, Executive Officer, San Francisco Bay Regional Water Resources Control Board

Mr. Wolfe covered a great deal of information about the Board and current activities of the Board with a focus on North Bay issues. The following is a very abbreviated summary of the topics he addressed. For more information about Regional Board activities the reader is encouraged to see the Regional Board’s website at

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay>

Established in 1949, the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) was developed to provide oversight and a permitting process for any discharges that could impact water quality in California. Unlike other government regulatory groups, the RWQCB developed its boundaries on a watershed basis, which frequently do not match other political boundaries. Regional Boards frequently experience varying social and economic pressures, and threats to water quality that can affect their tasks. Urban areas and agriculture, industry, now including cannabis growers for Regional Board 1, and various groundwater issues require an array of approaches to protect water quality.

The RWQCB is overseen by a seven member Board, which includes members who are appointed for a 4 year term by the governor. Currently, one Board position is open. Bruce Wolfe discussed an extensive array of issues being considered at the RWQCB. The following points outline some issues of interest to the present NBWA Board Members:

- Groundwater – Under SGMA, the state is currently developing groundwater plans for all regions, and is concerned about developing salt and nutrient plans for all groundwater regions.
Q: What is the role of fracking in ground water protection? A: No fracking in this region, but we do have oil wells. Concerns about water being used to drill, as well as waste water produced by this process.
- Mercury in Water Sources – Source is largely airborne, probably primarily from Asia, some historic sources currently regulated under permit: dentistry contributes small amount.
Q: Did the Napa Mines contribute? A: State funding currently being used to research the Napa Mines with drones and aerial imagery.
Q: If Dentistry only plays small role, is there a need to place restrictive economic measures on small businesses to limit mercury release? A: RWQCB needs to distinguish between historic and new mercury loads, before they can ask water agencies and others to work together to limit new loads of contaminants.
- Recycled Water – although flows of contaminated water may decrease, pollutant load may remain the same.

Bruce Wolfe offered that he would be happy to speak to agency boards or other groups about WQCB related issues.

8. **Items of Interest** - Following the Sonoma County Water Agency's Fish Ladder opening on the Russian River, the Board expressed interest in touring certain relevant sites as a group. Potential locations may include treatment plants, SCWA Fish Ladder, etc. A draft of suggestions will be available to the Board in December.

9. **Items for Next Agenda**

Drugs in our Water – Meg Sedlack, SFEI

Climate Adaption Planning – Brad Sherwood (SCWA) and SCWA's consultant

SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

Submitted by: Sophie Hallam-Eames

Water Agency Programs Specialist (SCWA) and NBWA Staff

Next Meeting Information: December 2, 2016 -Petaluma Community Center (Conference Room 2)
320 N McDowell Blvd, Petaluma, CA 94954